

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MAY 19, 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY LAB
TRANSFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

On January 13, 2015, the Board directed the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back on the proposed transfer of the Environmental Toxicology Lab (ETL) from the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (AC/WM) to the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The ETL was established in 1973 in the Department of Health Services, which included DPH at that time. The ETL is a full-service laboratory offering a wide range of analytical and consulting services that are available to a diverse array of industries, environmental engineers, government agencies, and public and private sectors. The ETL is accredited by the State Department of Public Health Environmental Lab Accreditation Program (ELAP) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

The CEO's report indicates that in 1982, the ETL was relocated to AC/WM, in large part, due to a then-existing significant workload in analyzing produce samples for pesticide residues. Over the years, that workload subsided as the AC/WM no longer needed that level of samples performed. The vast majority of the ETL's analytical workload involves tests of drinking, storm, and waste water for various contaminants. This change in workload over the years has continued to raise questions as to whether the ETL should remain in the AC/WM. No other county agricultural department in the State operates such a laboratory.

The CEO's report further concludes that the placement of the ETL in DPH is a better alignment with the mission and activities of DPH than those of the AC/WM. DPH operates the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) and the Bureaus of Environmental Protection and Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, all of which could utilize the ETL testing services. This is consistent with the findings of a previous report prepared by CGR Management Consultants.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the transfer of the functions, responsibilities, supervision, and administration of the Environmental Toxicology Lab (ETL) and staff from Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (AC/WM) to the Department of Public Health (DPH), effective July 1, 2015;
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to transfer the appropriation, revenue and NCC for the ETL from the AC/WM to DPH, at no additional cost to DPH, including funding for the direct and indirect support staff and support costs, in the FY 2015-16 Final Changes Budget; and
3. Direct County Counsel to pursue the required ordinance changes to facilitate the consolidation of the ETL functions currently performed by AC/WM within DPH.

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